



Policy No. 107

## **Special Education**

Adopted: November 19, 1999

Public education has a unique responsibility to shape a future society that values, respects and celebrates the diversity of its population. Public education must provide quality programs for all students, including those with developmental disabilities. The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) believes that the public education system must maximize the potential of each student.

The DDC advocates for public schools developing strong links with other community agencies in order to:

- Foster optimum learning potential of all children with developmental disabilities, and their brothers and sisters; and
- Assist families in maintaining stable, healthy home environments.

The DDC recognizes that public policy is established by federal and state legislative action that passes judicial review. The purpose of the DDC is to influence public policy to ensure opportunities and equal access to a meaningful educational experience for all students with developmental disabilities.

The DDC advocates for:

- Individualized, appropriate educational opportunities for all students with developmental disabilities;
- An education environment that is inclusive;
- Adequate resources from all sources;
- Equal access to an appropriate education for all students with developmental disabilities;
- Related services to serve students with developmental disabilities (for example: counseling, transportation, parent training and classified staff support);

- School/family/student partnerships that educate about special education rights and responsibilities resulting in opportunities for all students with developmental disabilities;

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